

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 607



Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**
First District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pamilacan Island is a small island of the municipality of Baclayon. The island lies at the heart of the Bohol Sea and is 12 kilometers away from the Bohol main island. It is home to more or less 200 families with fishing as the main source of livelihood.

Blessed with white sand beaches, the island is a tourist destination because of magnificent dive sites nearby, dolphin and whale watching adventures and bountiful marine life. It also boasts of a 200-year-old Spanish fort.

Under Presidential Decree No. 705, series of 1975, the island remains unclassified. Despite the activities in the island, current occupants and would-be lot owners are prevented from applying for land ownership unless the island is re-classified as alienable and disposable by a law.

A bill seeking the reclassification of the Pamilacan Island was filed in the Fourteenth (14th) Congress. It was approved by the House of Representatives on third reading and transmitted to the Senate. However, it remained unacted upon since 2009.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, there were land titles issued after a cadastral survey was made on the island sometime in the 1960s but only to be questioned later on because the island remains "unclassified".

This predicament is counterproductive to the island which has greatly increased tourism activities in the last decades. Tourism development has remained almost nil. This hampers economic development in the island, prevents income for the local government and frustrates opportunities for the local inhabitants. On the other, this has opened anomalies on land titling in the island.

The filing of the bill now is to aimed to correct the current situation and allow for land ownership to deserving constituents and the development of the area.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


EDGAR M. CHATTO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 607

Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**
First District, Bohol

AN ACT
DECLARING A PARCEL OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN
LOCATED IN THE ISLAND OF PAMILACAN, MUNICIPALITY OF
BACLAYON, PROVINCE OF BOHOL AN AGRICULTURAL LAND
OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL,
COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL OR OTHER PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Agricultural Land. The parcel of land of the public domain consisting of one hundred thirty-nine point four hectares (139-4 has.), more or less, identified as Project No. 6-A, forestlands, per Land Classification Map No. 694, dated 01 November 1927, located in the Island of Pamilacan, Municipality of Baclayon, Province of Bohol is hereby declared an agricultural land open to alienation and disposition for agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial or other productive purposes. Said parcel of land is more particularly described as follows:

Tie line corner 1 is S. 05° 42' E., 14,941.34 m. from BLLM 1, CAD 359 D, Baclayon, Bohol;

Corner	Bearing	Distance to next Corner	Tree Monument or Natural Landmark
1	S. 58° 24' W.	123.24 m.	Old P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon
2	S. 59° 54' W.	161.26 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon. X Coco Tree
3	S. 74° 41' W.	124.27 m.	X Coco Tree
4	S. 89° 38' W.	130.41 m.	X Coco Tree
5	N. 66° 45' W.	124.32 m.	X Coco Tree
6	N. 42° 38' W.	48.35 m.	X Coco Tree
7	N. 33° 20' W.	33.47 m.	X Coco Tree
8	N. 26° 47' W.	56.91 m.	X Coco Tree
9	N. 39° 50' W.	58.33 m.	X on rock
10	N. 68° 16' W.	61.81 m.	X on rock
11	N. 33° 12' W.	57.98 m.	X on Rock
12	S. 80° 09' W.	20.88 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
13	N. 20° 56' W.	139.27 m.	X on Rock
14	N. 30° 42' E.	57.21 m.	X on Rock
15	N. 05° 43' W.	48.30 m.	X on Rock
16	N. 00° 53' W.	13.65 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
17	N. 13° 53' E.	103.62 m.	X on Rock
18	N. 04° 27' E.	97.31 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
19	N. 05° 42' W.	77.32 m.	X on Rock

20	N. 19° 41' E.	31.63 m.	X on Rock
21	N. 21° 32' E.	27.10 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
22	N. 010 33' W.	78.12 m.	X on Rock
23	N. 19 ° 32' E.	117.10 m.	X on Rock
24	N. 00 ° 23' E.	64.52 m.	-----
25	N. 12° 12' W.	32.31 m.	-----
26	N. 01° 20' W.	28.91 m.	-----
27	N. 10 ° 59' W.	38.06 m.	-----
28			
29	N. 62° 11' E.	69.37 m.	X on Rock
30	N. 23° 11' E.	51.08 m.	X on Rock
31	N. 23° 05' E.	34.71 m.	X Coco Tree
32	N. 60° 08' E.	55.60 m.	X Coco Tree
33	N. 34° 07' E.	17.40 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
34	N. 37° 14' E.	20.60 m.	-----
35	N. 53° 18' E.	110.15 m.	X Coco Tree
36	N. 80° 18' E.	59.78 m.	-----
37	S. 79° 52' E.	36.96 m.	X Coco Tree
38	S. 67° 41' E.	71.85 m.	X Coco Tree
39	S. 70° 59' E.	52.43 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
40	S. 48° 46' E.	63.61 m.	-----
41	S. 52° 04' E.	68.05 m.	-----
42	S. 73° 46' E.	183.61 m.	-----
43	S. 39° 21' E.	11.778 m.	-----
44	S. 82° 30' E.	126.16 m.	-----
45	S. 44° 34' E.	186.53 m.	-----
46	S. 34° 44' E.	65.66 m.	-----
47	S. 24° 16' E.	93.93 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
48	S. 18° 23' E.	119.15 m.	-----
49	S. 07° 00' E.	251.15 m.	-----
50	S. 24° 12' E.	243.74 m.	-----
51	S. 42° 28' E.	244.73 m.	-----
52	S. 50° 30' E.	135.01 m.	-----

SEC. 2. Affirmation and Validation of Existing Titles. — Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, all certificates of title covering portions of the parcel of land described in Section 1 hereof that were issued prior to the approval of this Act by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and/or the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) are hereby affirmed and validated.

SEC. 3. Disposition of Untitled Portions. — In the disposition of portions of the agricultural land not covered by Section 2, affirming and validating existing titles or those areas where no title has been issued, regardless of the identified use of the same, the DENR shall issue a free patent over any lot in said untitled portions to any citizen of the Philippines who has continuously occupied or cultivated either by himself or through his predecessors-in-interest or who shall have paid real estate taxes thereon, while the same has not been occupied by any person for at least three (3) years prior to the approval of this Act, not to exceed twelve hectares (12 has.) per applicant and subject to the limitations in Section 5, on protection of ecological balance.

SEC. 4. Final Survey and Distribution. — The final survey, delineation and distribution of the parcel of land subject of this Act shall be undertaken by the DENR.

SEC. 5. Protection of Ecological Balance. — The area described in Section 1 hereof is hereby excluded from the coverage of Section 16, areas needed for forest purposes, of Presidential Decree No. 705 or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines, as amended:

Provided, however, That the removal of timber and other forest products and the utilization of other natural resources in the said parcel of land and throughout the Island of Pamilacan shall not in any way prejudice the ecological balance in the island, and shall be subject to forest, water and other environmental protection laws, rules and regulations: Provided, moreover, That the island's existing mangrove forests and the twenty (20)-meter protection zone along the coastal area and the banks of rivers and streams throughout their entire length, which shall be surveyed and delineated by the DENR on the ground, shall retain their classification as forestland, subject to the easement of public use in the interest of recreation, navigation, flotage, fishing and salvage.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation. The provisions of the Public Land Act pertaining to the distribution of public lands and the issuance of land titles, insofar as they are not inconsistent herewith, shall apply.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. — If any part or section of this Act is declared unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect in any manner the other parts or sections of this Act.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, proclamations or issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,